



Partnering with Ghana Christian University College in West Africa through Education and Christian Community Development

## Kimberly's December 2008 Newsletter

### Leading by Example

I was really surprised the day several of Ghana Christian University's (GCUC) theology students asked me to serve as matron of the school's debate team. My initial thoughts were those of insecurity as I considered how little I knew about the skill of debating and the structure of debate teams, and my inability to contribute much to the team's success in such a short period of time (they were scheduled for a debate with students from Valley View Christian University within two weeks).

When I considered the chance I was being given, however, to further develop a relationship with students outside of the classroom, I couldn't say no. After all, several of those involved in the debate club had been students in my Oral Communication class in spring 2008. As well, I saw it as an opportunity to lead by example and practice what I've been learning about leadership and followership—most specifically, transformational leadership.

On the night of the debate, we arrived at Valley View to learn that only myself and an older female lecturer from that school was to serve as judges. I told Ernest, Mark and Isaac to do their best, which is all I could ask or expect of

them, and trust that they and the opposing team would be evaluated fairly and honestly.

Talk about being a bit naive. Although the guys did exceptionally well and should have won (no biases but its just the truth), the Valley View judge gave our school's debate team very low marks and gave her school's debate team very high marks, despite the fact that their team had been ill-prepared for the debate topic. You see, after listening to the first speaker for each team, we realized that the Valley View team was debating in favor of the topic, "Is it right for Christians to participate in politics," while GCUC's team was arguing against the topic, "Is it right for Christians to participate in *partisan* politics." As an extension of grace, we agreed to stop the debate, confirm the right topic for the Valley View team (which had been communicated by letter to the members of both schools by someone from Valley View), allow the Valley View team 15 minutes to prepare for the proper topic, and start over. With just 15 minutes to work on their arguments, there was no way the Valley team could have effectively matched the GCUC team, who had had the advan-



tage of doing weeks of extensive research, and practice. Still, the Valley View team benefited from having heard arguments presented by our first speaker, and used it accordingly.

Although each student of GCUC's team personally believes that God can use believers to make a difference in the political arena, even as it relates to partisan politics, they argued well against the topic, using historical examples, citing statistics, and with passion—none of which the other team did.

So, you can imagine how shocking it was to see the other judges' scores. When we averaged our scores together, the Valley View team won by two points. I felt sick to my stomach. Not only did I question the Valley View judge's integrity, but I also questioned my own integrity. What did my compassion for the opposing team, in awarding "mercy" points despite doing very poorly, demonstrate about my own integrity? Being compassionate towards one resulted in disloyalty towards the other. Yep, I was sick alright.

Leaving Valley View, I had to face GCUC's debate team and all of the other students who came out by the busload to support the team. Did they feel, as I did, that I had let them down?

Please write/send financial support in the form of a check to: "Team Expansion"

c/o Kimberly R. Daniels, P.O. Box 16, South Holland, IL 60473-0016

Forwarding Agent: Ethelyn Taylor Phone: (708) 339-8051

DONATE ONLINE at: [www.teamexpansion.org/gcu](http://www.teamexpansion.org/gcu)

In the car on the way back to campus, I told Ernest, Mark and Isaac how proud I was of them, but I didn't mention my doubts concerning the other judge. Going forward, we decided, it would be better to have at least two neutral judges who could evaluate debating teams fairly and honestly. Still, one of the students was quite bewildered as to how the other team won.

Later, the three guys told me how much they appreciated my service, and that they considered the debate with Valley View to be a learning experience—an opportunity for doing better in the future. I bit my tongue, even as Ernest told me that the Valley View judge had shared with him some "pointers" for how to deliver a more sound argument. If there was an award for good showman-

ship, my team would have won, hands down!

What I've realized from the experience is that as matron, I may have been a recognized "leader" of GCUC's debate team, but the debaters, because of their gracious attitudes and humility, were the ones who had led by example. Now that's transformational leadership in practice.

**Praise**—I am really grateful for all of the end-of-year special donations, and continued support. Thank you!

**Praise**—Terry and Amy Ruff, newest Team Expansion members, made it safely to Ghana on December 29th.

**Pray**—For me to discern God's will, especially now that the Ruff's are here. They are praying for additional team members to help with the vision they have for reaching least reached peoples in northern Ghana and surrounding countries. I'm praying for ways I can still be a blessing in the areas of teaching, training & equipping, while also having a more active involvement in hands-on ministry work.

**Pray**—Lately, I've been struggling with feeling isolated and alone, especially with this being my second Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday spent outside the U.S. I'm not really sure what you can pray for other than for me to experience God as Jehovah-Shamma—the Lord is present.

## All I Want for Christmas . . .

- Kool-Aid brand, unsweetened soft drink mix packets. I've gotten visiting kids and students hooked on my favorite drink, and now I'm running out. I like cherry flavor, pink lemonade and berry blue. Yum!
- Frito Lay sunflower seeds (in the shell).
- You may send any fun stuff in a brown padded or bubble envelope to Kimberly Daniels, P.O. Box DD48, Dodowa Ghana.



Thank you!!!

## Financial Recap December 2008

Receipts	
Avalon Church of Christ	\$ 100.00
Christ Temple Cathedral	80.00
Everybody's Church	1,000.00
Faith Community Church	150.00
K & B Fashion	100.00
Living Water ABF (Southeast)	442.00
Southeast Christian	300.00
Individuals	\$2,935.00
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>5,107.00</b>

Expenses:	
100 - Salary	\$ 540.00
110 - Medical Insurance	404.46
130 - Social Security	140.00
141 - Roth IRA	250.00
150 - Housing	164.01
320 - Hospitality	217.75
470 - Joint Team Projects	725.00
490 - National Co-Workers	305.44
500 - Postage in the Field	21.74
550 - Postage in the U.S.	81.50
600 - Supplies in the Field	-23.53
650 - Supplies in the States	58.42
660 - Mission Phone	45.65
661 - Internet	170.65
720 - Newsletters	30.39
730 - Reporting to Supporters	35.38
740 - Home Office	100.00
800 - Car/Transportation	65.22
820 - Travel Fees/tolls	22.61
880 - Home Service Fund	250.00
920 - Banking Fees	80.66
990 - Misc. Expense	10.65
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$3,696.00</b>

## Budget Stuff

- Hospitality: Food for guests staying with me at the guesthouse.
- National Co-Workers: includes monies for regular, monthly salaries plus Christmas bonuses (a tradition started and continued by the missionaries).
- Internet: Due to problems with the internet provider, GCUC's campus, including missionary houses, lost internet connection on December 16th, and its doubtful as to whether we'll get our service back in the same way. So, I'm trying to find alternate ways of having internet access, including going to internet cafes (quite a bit of distance from where I live), and purchasing a special modem for my computer/phone (which is really slow and doesn't do well with downloading large files). I'm doing my best to catch up on all of your emails.

Send a personal letter or card to Kimberly at:

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e-mail: kdaniels@ghanacu.org or call 011-233-27-662-8762. skype: kdaniels2006